

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted with a Request for Continued Examination. In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, and raises several other “problems” with the claims. The Examiner also rejects Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15, 16, and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,496,568 to Nelson. Moreover, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-13, 15, 16, and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,633,910 to Rajan et al. The Official Action also rejects Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson or Rajan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,246,320 to Monroe.

Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-22 and have added new Claims 23-51. In light of the amendments, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance.

Regarding the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, and 35 U.S.C. § 101, Applicants submit that these rejections are now moot in light of the new claims.

Independent Claim 23 recites a method for notifying travelers of changes in travel information in an integrated event notification system. The method includes monitoring travel information for changes and publishing a change in travel information upon occurrence of the change. The method also includes detecting when a change in travel information has been published based upon a previous subscription to receive notification of changes in travel information. Moreover, the method includes automatically initiating the re-accommodation of travel for at least one traveler in response to detecting the change in travel information and without awaiting a request from the at least one traveler. The method further includes notifying the at least one traveler of the re-accommodation, wherein the at least one traveler has previously subscribed to receive notification of changes in travel information affecting the traveler's itinerary. Independent Claims 29 and 35 include similar recitations in the context of a computer-readable medium and a system, respectively. Thus, new Claims 23, 28, and 33 facilitate the automatic re-accommodation of travelers (e.g., rebooking a traveler on a different flight) without the traveler having to request or otherwise confirm such re-accommodation.

Nelson does not teach or suggest independent Claims 23, 28, and 33. In contrast to the claimed invention, Nelson requires the subscriber to provide a request for a change to the traveler's itinerary (see e.g., col. 1, lines 47-50; col. 2, lines 1-5; col. 4, lines 35-45; col. 6, lines 49-56; col. 6, line 65 - col. 7, line 7; col. 7, lines 15-23). Thus, the subscriber is first notified of the change in a travel itinerary, and then the subscriber provides a request to make a change or confirm that a change be made, which is unlike Claims 23, 28, and 33 where the travelers are automatically re-accommodated. Furthermore, Rajan does not teach or suggest detecting changes in travel information and/or re-accommodating travelers in response to such changes and fails to anticipate Claims 23, 28, and 33.

Furthermore, Applicants have added independent Claims 41, 44, and 47. Claim 41 provides a method for notifying ground crew of changes in travel information in an integrated event notification system. The method includes monitoring travel information for changes and publishing a change in travel information upon occurrence of the change. The method also includes detecting when a change in travel information has been published based upon a previous subscription to receive notification of changes in travel information. The method further includes automatically initiating the rescheduling of ground crew in response to detecting the published change in travel information, and notifying the ground crew of the rescheduling. Claims 44 and 47 provide similar recitations in the context of a computer-readable medium and system, respectively. Thus, Claims 41, 44, and 47 facilitate the automatic rescheduling of ground crew in response to changes in travel.

Nelson nowhere teaches or suggests automatically initiating the rescheduling of ground crew in response to detecting the published change in travel information, and notifying the ground crew of the rescheduling, as recited by independent Claims 41, 44, and 47. In fact, Nelson does not teach or suggest that the subscribers may be ground crew, as Nelson only discloses that the subscribers are airline customers. In addition, Rajan does not teach or suggest detecting changes in travel information and/or re-scheduling ground crew in response to such changes and also fails to anticipate Claims 41, 44, and 47.

Previous dependent Claim 5, which has been canceled, recited that the second event included rescheduling ground crew. The Examiner relied on a combination of Nelson and

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Monroe as disclosing Claim 5. Applicants submit that Monroe also does not disclose independent Claims 41, 44, and 47. In this regard, Monroe relates to an on-board security and surveillance system for aircraft. Monroe discloses that the system enables monitoring and/or response to crew generated work orders or supply orders. Thus, Monroe is clearly distinguishable from Claims 41, 44, and 47, as Monroe does not automatically initiate the rescheduling of ground crew in response to published changes in travel information. In fact, Monroe discloses at col. 3, lines 31-36 that the ground crew initiates a work order or supply order before the security and surveillance system monitors the aircraft such that the security and surveillance system does not automatically initiate the monitoring and/or response.

Therefore, Applicants submit that none of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests new independent Claims 23, 28, 33, 41, 44, and 47 and that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and § 103(a) are overcome. Because each of the dependent claims includes the recitations of a respective independent claim, Applicants submit that the dependent claims are also allowable for at least those reasons discussed above.

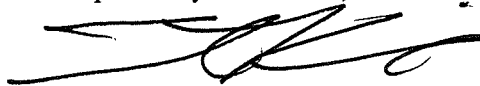
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CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the present claims of the present application are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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